

A good many County Medical Society Secretaries do not seem to realize the importance of their position. On the County Secretary really depends the whole success or failure of the County Society, and on the County

#### COUNTY SECRETARIES.

Society is founded the whole structure of medical organization—the State Society and the American Medical Association. The good that these organizations are doing in California and in the whole United States, is incalculable. Most of us do not seem to realize a tithe of the work that is really being done for the betterment of our profession and the consequent further protection of the people. In our own State, consider the difference between the attitude of the average legislator now, and the same individual a few years ago when we were a heterogeneous body of disorganized individuals, not in touch with each other, not knowing what was going on in other parts of the State; not even knowing what should be done for the people nor agreeing amongst ourselves upon anything. Now it is quite different. Physicians in the far North are informed of what is being done by those in the far South. Definite policies are outlined and a large number of widely separated individuals are in close touch in connection with these policies; they inform their own respective legislators *why* certain things should be done, and *why* certain other things should not be done, and in many instances they do this either before the representative is elected, or before the Legislature has assembled. So, too, with the American Medical Association, which is made up of the various State Societies. It is doing a magnificent work in bringing together physicians from all parts of the country and in unifying our efforts to improve things within our profession and thus help the people whose servants we are, toward the securing for themselves better medical attendance.

Thus, for example, the Council on Medical Education, of the American Medical Association, has

#### COUNCIL ON EDUCATION.

done more to raise the standards of medical schools, bring about the consolidation of some and put to shame others, than anything that has ever been done in this country heretofore. And working with the Council on Medical Education is the Directory Department of the A. M. A. itself. The amount of most valuable work that is here being done is almost unbelievable. A record is made of all graduates from all schools in the country, and where these graduates are licensed; and this record is kept up to date and carefully stored in fire-proof vaults. Of course the gathering of all this information began with the undertaking by the A. M. A. of the publication of a reliable directory of physicians—something that had never been done previously. It was soon evident that it would be necessary to accumulate a vast store of information in excess of that which actually gets into the published book. Many states have always been careless in the matter of keeping records of graduates and licentiates. Furthermore, nowhere

in the United States was there assembled a complete list of all graduates of all schools and so questions of doubtful record could not be settled except at an enormous expense of time and energy. Now this information is assembled in one safe place and at any time, in a few seconds, the identity of the individual, his place of graduation and much of his history may be ascertained. It is almost impossible to overestimate the value of this work to the medical profession, and, of course, incidentally to the people. And this is just one part of the great work that the A. M. A. is doing for all of us—and is able to do because of the existence of medical organization and of County Medical Societies.

#### REVIEW OF THE WORK DONE IN THE ANATOMICAL DEPARTMENT OF COOPER MEDICAL COLLEGE.\*

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Realizing the great importance of anatomy in the study of medicine and surgery, every effort has been made to improve the course of anatomical instruction during the last few years. The improvement has been gradual in the several branches. The work of the teachers and students has been systematized and a spirit of earnestness has been developed and maintained throughout. Careful watchfulness on the part of the teachers as to the quantity and quality of work done by the students has eliminated largely the tendency to do superficial work, and made it impossible to neglect and at the same time receive credit for work which was not done.

There has been greater companionship between the teachers and students. The latter have been constantly followed in their work, encouraged and criticized when necessary and always guided onwards to the accomplishment of laudatory work; as a result a feeling of pride has been engendered, which has had the result of making the student look upon the dissecting room as a resort for earnest work and discussion.

The improvement could have been more rapid and maintained more thoroughly, had it been possible to retain experienced teachers. Usually when an instructor had gained sufficient experience to become truly valuable, work in some other field with greater remuneration called him away and a new and less experienced teacher would have to take his place. This intermittent value of teachers has had a retarding influence upon ideal work.

The conduct of the students has been considerably better in the last two or three years. This no doubt is partly due to the fines imposed for all grievous breach of the rules with destruction of property.

Realizing that lack of promptness on the part of teachers had considerable to do with outbreaks of riotous demonstrations, an effort has been made by the teachers to be a few minutes early.

Disregard of teachers for rules of the college, in the presence of students, has had a demoralizing effect upon the moral control of them. The teach-

\* Read before the Cooper College Science Club.